

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01

ACDE-00 /072 W

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O P 061204Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2076

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7884

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0449

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, WB, GE, GW, UR

SUBJ: RIECHSBAHN DEFIANCE OF ALLIED ORDER

REFS: A) USBERLIN 431; B) BONN 3676; C) STATE 55155;

D) BONN 3723

1. SUMMARY: EAST GERMAN FONOFF OFFICIAL INFORMED SENAT MARCH 6 THAT GDR PLANNED TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER DECEMBER 19, 1975 AGREEMENT REGARDING TRAIN STATIONS IN WEST BERLIN AND EXPECTED SENAT TO DO THE SAME. GDR HAD NOT CAUSED PROBLEM AND IT UP TO THE PROBLEM CREATORS TO SOLVE IT. SENAT INFORMED BY FRG REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN THAT GAUS HAD IMPRESSION FROM MEETING WITH GDR OFFICIAL MARCH 6 THAT EAST GERMANS WERE LOOKING FOR WAY OUT PROVIDING THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO COMPROMISE THEIR POSITION. BUT THERE ARE NO OTHER INDICATIONS TO DATE THAT THE GDR WILL YIELD. ENSUMMARY.

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2. GDR FONOFF OFFICIAL MITDANK CALLED SENAT MORNING OF MARCH 6 TO ARRANGE URGENT MEETING TO DISCUSS "POSITIVE PROPOSAL". (SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED U.S. LIAISON OFFICER THAT MITDANK, WHO HEADS WEST BERLIN SECTION, OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO MAKE APPROACH TO SENAT PARALLELING THAT OF GAUS TO SEIDEL, HEAD OF FRG SECTION IN GDR FONOFF.) MEETING TOOK PLACE LATER IN MORNING WITH SENAT OFFICIAL KUNZE, WHO IS MITDANK'S NORMAL DISCUSSION PARTNER. MITDANK TOLD KUNZE THAT GDR WAS LIVING UP TO ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER DECEMBER 19 AGREEMENT ON WEST BERLIN RAILWAY STATION RECONSTRUCTION AND EXPECTED SENAT TO LIVE UP TO ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER AGREEMENT. KUNZE POINTED OUT THAT MATTER HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED BETWEEN FRG AND GDR; SENAT WAS ONLY AN INTERESTED PARTY. MITDANK USED GERMAN EXPRESSION TO DESCRIBE WHAT MUST BE DONE: HE SAID WHO EVER LEADS A COW ONTO THE ICE MUST BE THE ONE TO LEAD IT OFF AGAIN. WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT ALLIES BK/O IS THE COW THAT THEY FOOLISHLY GOT OUT ON THE ICE; THEREFORE ALLIES (OR SENAT ON THEIR BEHALF) MUST GET IT OFF AGAIN. HOWEVER, MITDANK ADDED THAT PERHAPS HE AND KUNZE TOGETHER COULD FIND A WAY OF LEADING THE COW TO SAFETY. MITDANK REFERRED TO GAUS' CONVERSATION WITH SEIDEL AND ALLEGED THAT GAUS ONLY REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM IN PASSING." MITDANK ADDED THAT GAUS' MEETING WITH SEIDEL HAD NO PURPOSE BECAUSE SEIDEL "NATURALLY" WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS WEST BERLIN MATTERS WITH GAUS. (IN OTHER WORDS, WEST BERLIN IS MITDANK TURF.) MITDANK SOUGHT FOR OVER AN HOUR TO GET KUNZE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSION OF RAILWAY STATIONS. KUNZE SAID MITDANK GAVE IMPRESSION THAT "THE AMERICANS" AND FRG GOVERNMENT WERE "BEGGING" GDR TO BE REASONABLE. MITDANK CLAIMED GAUS HAD SAID "BOTH SIDES SHOULD BRING THE COW FROM THE ICE" AND THAT POLAD DAVIS HAD MADE SIMILAR ASSERTION IN DEMARCHE TO SOVIET OFFICIAL. (COMMENT: WHICH OF COURSE IS NOT TRUE. END COMMENT.)

3. IN SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS AND CHANCELLERY OFFICIALS, HERZ GAVE IMPRESSION HE THOUGH ALLIED BK/O WAS AT FAULT AND THAT SOME COMPROMISE WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND WITH WESTERN SIDE TAKING INITIATIVE. BRITISH LIAISON OFFICER AGREED THAT ALLIES WOULD IN END HAVE TO COMPROMISE. BRITISH LIAISON OFFICER THEN PROCEEDED, CONFIDENTIAL

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QUITE INJUDICIOUSLY EVEN GIVEN INFORMAL NATURE OF DISCUSSION, TO SUGGEST THAT UK AND FRANCE DID NOT WANT TO EMBARRASS THEIR EC PARTNERS WEST GERMANY AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON THIS ISSUE, BECAUSE OF LARGER CONSIDERATIONS."

4. WHILE ABOVE MEETING GOING ONE, HERZ RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM GAUS' DEPUTY, BRAEUTIGAM, GIVING IMPRESSION GAUS FORMED

FROM MEETING SEIDEL, WHICH WAS: NO FURTHER "HARASSMENT" BY ALLIES WAS NECESSARY SINCE EAST GERMANS WERE "LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT" WITHOUT COMPROMISING THEIR POSITION. GAUS TO MEET AGAIN WITH SEIDEL NEXT WEEK. COMPLETE REPORT TO BE GIVEN HERZ AND STOBBE BY GAUS ON MARCH 8 FOLLOWING WHICH INFORMATION HE PROVIDES WILL BE GIVEN TO ALLIES.

5. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO STAND FIRM. WE STILL SEE NO WILLINGNESS ON PART OF GDR TO COMPROMISE ANY ANY GESTURES FROM ALLIED SIDE AT THIS POINT WOULD ONLY BE SEEN AS WEAKNESS WHICH GDR WOULD TRY TO TURN TO ITS ADVANTAGE. REICHSBAHN HAS FORMED SPECIAL PLANNING STAFF IN WEST BERLIN TO SUPERVISE RECONSTRUCTION OF THREE RAILWAY STATIONS AND FROM REPORTS WE HAVE HAD FROM OPERATIONS OF THIS GROUP, IT APPEARS THAT SED IS EXERCISING DIRECT POLITICAL CONTROL OVER PROJECT. RECENT REPORT FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE (SEPTTEL) SUGGESTS THAT REICHSBAHN AND GDR ARE NOT CONVINCED ALLIES WILL HOLD FIRM.

6. EVEN PRIOR TO OUR REQUEST TO SENAT TO TALK TO FIRMS INVOLVED WITH RECONSTRUCTION, SIEMENS HAD BEEN MEETING WITH REICHSBAHN TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN OVER ABSENCE OF PLANS AND ALLIED APPROVAL FOR WORK. SIEMENS SOUGHT REICHSBAHN GUARANTEE THAT EQUIPMENT (VALUED AT AT DM 1 MILLION) ACQUIRED FROM BUNDESBahn FOR WEST BERLIN PROJECT WOULD BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE OF ITS ARRIVAL IN BERLIN AND THAT REICHSBAHN WOULD INDEMNIFY SIEMENS IN CASE ALLIES STOP THE WORK. REICHSBAHN REPLIED ON MARCH 5 INDICATING THAT ADVANCE PAYMENT WOULD BE MADE AND ADDING THAT IF SIEMENS FULFILLED ITS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION IT NEED HAVE NO CONCERN OVER PAYMENT. THIS INDICATES TO US EITHER THAT THE REICHSBAHN IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT ALLIES STOPPING WORK OR THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY COULD AVOID PAYMENT TO SIEMENS SHOULD FIRM NOT BE ABLE TO

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MEET CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS. GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, HIGHWAYS, BERLIN HIGHWAY ACCESS, REICHSBAHN, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USBERL00449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760086-0735
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760386/aaaacyfh.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 431, 76 BONN 3676, 76 STATE 55155
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RIECHSBAHN DEFIANCE OF ALLIED ORDER
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, WB, GC, GE, UR
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006